



ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Hans Holbein

Icones Historiarum Veteris Testamenti

Lyon, 1547

Translation of the Latin text by Octavo; translation of the French verse
by Walter Martin for Octavo.

Using this Translation

The pages of this translation have two columns: the larger left column contains the translated text; the narrow right column contains Bible chapters and verse and thumbnails of the book. Clicking on a Bible reference (displayed in red), or the Thumbnail, will open that view in the Read version of the digital book. This translation file has been designed to be printed on letter-size paper.

THE
IMAGES
OF THE OLD
TESTAMENT,

Vividly expressed and corrected with the greatest diligence,
exhibited in French rhyme, and with the order of the verses
(which was earlier confused and uneven) restored.



Lyon,
By Jean Frellon,
1547.

François Frellon to the Christian reader, Greetings.

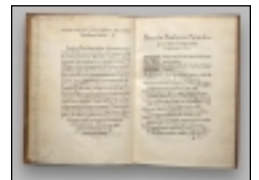
Behold, for you, Christian reader, we diligently show pictures of the Sacred Scriptures, with their Latin and French interpretations. We admonish this first, that all your efforts be directed to these sacrosanct images, pointing out and demonstrating the inmost secrets of the hagiographers, once the lustful images of Venus, of Diana, and of the rest of the goddesses, which either impede the soul in error or stain it with baseness have been rejected. What could be better, or more worthy of a Christian man, than to apply his mind to these matters, which are wise in the mysteries of the only faith, and teach us to love God our creator uniquely, and to profess true religion? Then indeed will the burden of our labor be taken up, and communicated to others, so that they will remember to direct everything of this kind to the most beneficent glory and honor of God our Benefactor.

Farewell, Reader, and profit.

Title page



Frellon to the reader



Poem to the Reader. By Nicolas Bourbon, Poet of Langres.

The other day, Apelles was wandering by chance in Elysium;
Zeuxis and his companion Parrhasius were with him.
These two poured forth ample words,
But he saddened meanwhile and was speechless.
His companions wondered, and implored and urged him to speak.
Drawing a deep breath, the Coan says:
O Ye, unknowing of the rumor that lately comes from the upper shores
(Would that it were empty) even to the Stygian dwellings.
To wit, there is today one among mortals
Who might show that I and the Ionians were naught,
And might declare us painters in name alone,
And that all previous pictures were but rough sketches.
The man's name is Holbein, and he makes our names
Dark where they shone, and next to nothing.
Such is said to be the complaint among the dead; and they
Justly may complain, in my opinion.

For whoever sees a picture painted by Hans Holbein,
The chiefest glory of his art,
Will cry out at once, God could produce the prodigy
I see; but not human hands.
These sacred images are by such (Oh! best of readers)
An artist, that they are worthy of your worship.
He reveals in his salubrious painting how his soul shook,
Expounding to you the divine stories.
Moses handed down each in his arcane book,
And as many more the other prophets, that race stung by God.
These things are shown forth in Hans' pictures;
Latin speech accompanies, interpreting the deeds.
Read them. Farewell, lover of ravished Ganymede;
And let the foul thefts of the Cyprian goddess be hence.

Bourbon poem

Bourbon poem 2



By the Same Poet, Bourbon.

A Distich.

Stranger, you wish to see images like to breathing creatures?

Look on this work of Holbein's hand.

The Same, verbatim in Latin.

Do you wish to behold images most like to the living?

Then behold this noble work of Holbein's hand.

Gilles Corrozet

To his Readers.

Examining this host of images,
The body's eye, moving about the page,
Can take herein a singular delight,
Which kindles in the heart a sure desire
To worship God, the maker of all things
That the letters of the Holy Word contain.

These beautiful pictures remind us of
The constant need to please the Lord our God:
Inspiring us to be obedient,
To shrink from every hint of sin, and vice,
Which lodge inside our spirits when we see
Them brought to life, and couched in common terms.

Therefore pull down thy vanities, the foul
And unclean tapestries, the filthy oils:
Take Venus down, and her son Cupid, too,
Take Helen, Phyllis, Dido down as well,

Then rid your mind of foolish phantasies
And be instilled with visions that are true.

Set up instead—take sanctuary in—
The holy writ, and sacred histories
Like those that you now have in front of you
Within this little book. And all who do,
Regardless of their years, or of their size,
Will have rewarded hearts, as well as eyes.

Not less but more.

Corrozet poem

Corrozet poem 2



By the word of almighty God are created and blessed the earth, day, night, heaven, the sea, the sun, moon, stars, fishes, and beasts of the earth. Adam and Eve are also created.

Genesis I

Genesis I



In the beginning God created heaven,
Earth, sea, and all that pertains to man:
He created Adam, and likewise Eve,
Endowed with reason, in his own image.

Adam, set in a paradise of pleasure, is forbidden the tree of life. By the subtlety of the serpent, Adam and Eve are deceived.

Genesis 2 and 3



And God forbade them both, on pain of death,
To taste of the fruit from the tree of life:
But the serpent, envious of the two,
Beguiled them to eat from that very tree.

Genesis II & III



When their sin was known, Adam and Eve fled from the face of God and were made subject to death. A cherubim is set before the paradise of pleasure with a fiery sword.

Genesis 3



The man and woman had sinned against God
And now both stood condemned for their offense,
Then cherubim drove them from the garden:
Against their death they now had no defense.

Adam, expelled from Paradise, is commanded to dig and plough the earth. The wife is subject to the man and brings forth her children in sorrow.

Genesis 3



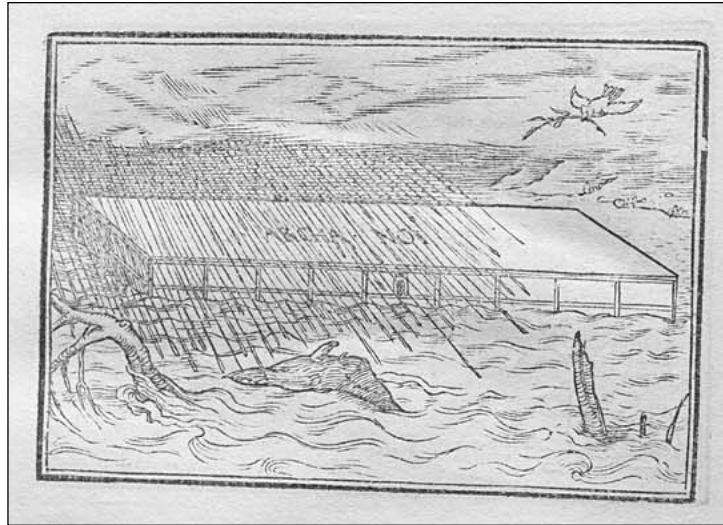
Father Adam, by the sweat of his brow,
Works hard to win for them their daily bread,
While Eve is forced to suffer labor's pain
For sons they need to carry on their line.

Genesis III



Righteous Noah by God's commandment goes into the ark. He is saved, but all others are destroyed. After the raven and the dove were released from the ship, he leaves it.

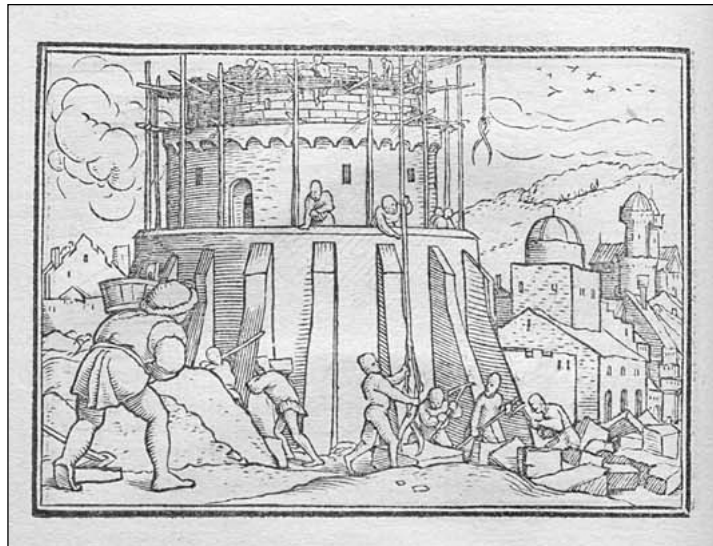
Genesis 7



Everyone but Noah the patriarch
Had perished in a universal flood.
He and his kin took refuge in an ark
And their lives were spared, by the will of God.

The tower of Babylon is built, whence arises the confusion of languages.

Genesis 11



Nimrod the mighty man began to build
The tower known as Babel, or *confusion*.
But God, to punish such great pride, willed
That the common tongue suffer division.

Genesis XI



Abraham lodges the angels. Isaac is promised to him. Sara laughs behind the door of the tabernacle. The destruction of the Sodomites is prophesied to Abraham. Abraham prays for the Sodomites.

Genesis 18



Three angels promised to old Abraham
A son, the thought of which made Sarah laugh.
He begs the Lord to set aside his wrath
And spare the lives of Sodom's innocent.

Abraham's faith is tested. He is commanded to offer his son, Isaac. The angel calls to Abraham not to kill his son.

Genesis 22



The Lord commanded unto Abraham
That his son Isaac should be sacrificed:
When his father prepared to slaughter him,
God saw his righteous faith and was appeased.

Genesis XXII



Jacob, by the subtlety of his mother, steals the blessing from Esau. Isaac is sorrowful. Esau is comforted.

Genesis XXVII

Genesis 27



Good Jacob, in counsel with his mother,
Gained his father Isaac's benediction
Pretending to be Esau, his brother.
Esau was aggrieved by this deception.

Joseph, because he accused his brothers and had dreams, is cast into the cistern.
Delivered out of the cistern, he is sold to the Ishmaelites.

Genesis 37



Young Joseph was cast into a cistern
By all his brethren for a dream he told,
But by the Lord's eternal providence,
The boy was sold to passing merchantmen.

Genesis XXXVII



Pharaoh dreams of the seven oxen and ears of corn. Joseph, led out of prison, explains the dream and is put in charge of the crops of Egypt.

Genesis XLI

Genesis 41



At peace, Pharaoh saw seven ears of corn,
And seven head of cattle as he slept.
Joseph, released from prison, made it clear:
He would govern, and reign, over Egypt.

When Jacob is about to die, he adopts Ephraim and Manasseh, the sons of Joseph, and blesses them.

Genesis 48



Jacob, seeing that his days were numbered,
And knowing that the end was soon to be,
Affiliated Joseph's own two sons:
One Ephraim, the other Manasseh.

Genesis XLVIII



Joseph is buried. The children of Israel are oppressed in Egypt in hard bondage. The diligence of good midwives is expressed.

Exodus I

Exodus I



Joseph was dead and buried in his tomb
And Israel suffered great affliction then.
Good midwives spared the lives of the sons whom
They were to kill, instead of killing them.

Moses feeds the sheep. He sees God in the bush. He is sent to the children of Israel and their oppressor, Pharaoh.

Exodus 3



Moses, watching over his flock, was sent
To deliver his people by the Lord,
Who spoke from the midst of a burning bush,
Sent even unto Pharaoh, Egypt's king.

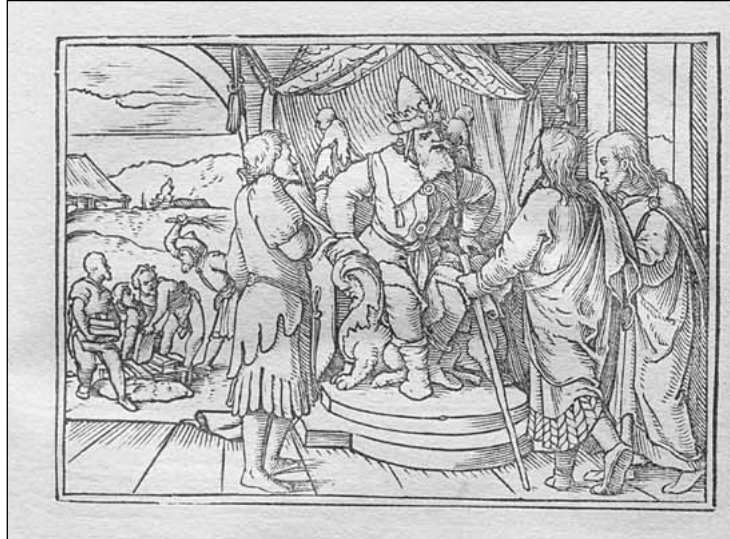
Exodus III



Moses and Aaron approach Pharaoh. The people are more and more oppressed.
Moses and Aaron are accused by the people.

Exodus V

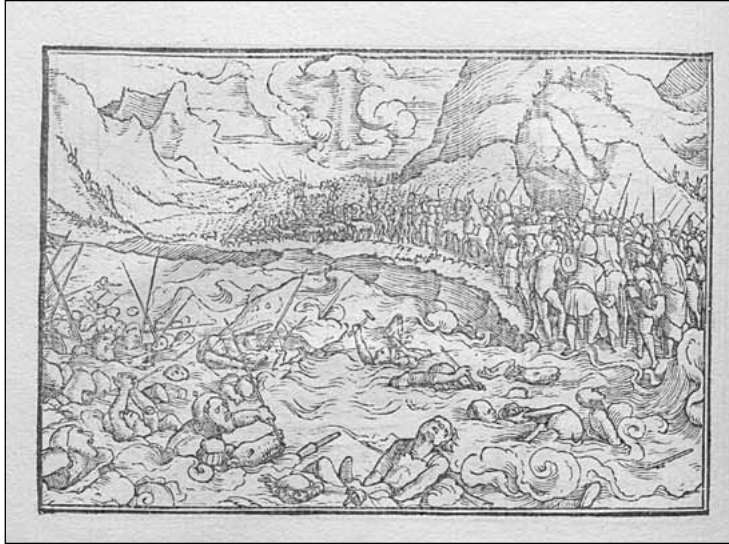
Exodus 5



Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh's
Throne, pleading on behalf of Israel:
For more and more the people were oppressed
By this king, and his cruel taskmasters.

Pharaoh's heart is hardened. He pursues the Israelites and is drowned. The Israelites grumble, despairing of their salvation. They go through the midst of the sea with dry feet. Victorious, they worship God.

Exodus 14 and 15



All the children of Israel encamped
By the Red Sea, which then became dry ground
Under their feet, so they passed through unharmed:
But Pharaoh followed after and was drowned.

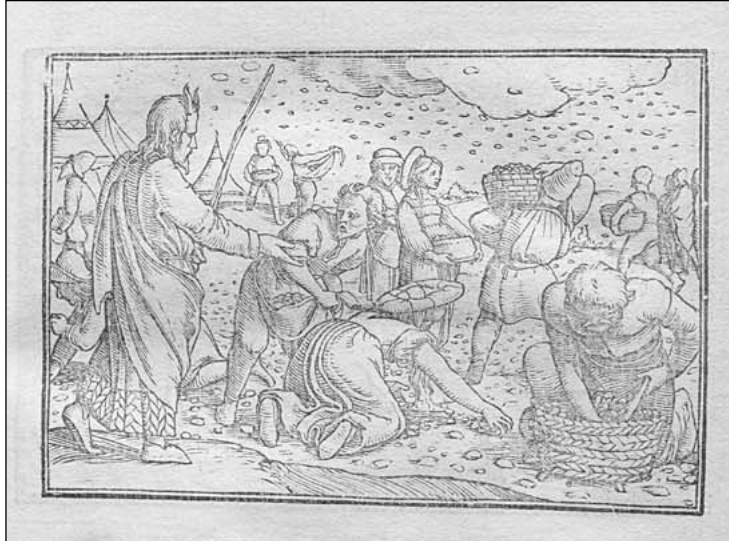
Exodus XIII & XV



The Israelites go forth into the wilderness of Sin. When they grumble for food,
God rained quails and manna on them.

Exodus XVI

Exodus 16



Then they escaped into the wilderness:
In order to provide for them, our Lord
Commanded that from heaven manna fall
Like rain upon the earth, to feed them all.

The Israelites lay their tents at the foot of Mount Sinai. The people are commanded to make sacrifice. Almighty God appears in thunder and lightning, and the people fear him.

Exodus 19



They pitched their tents in Sinai's wilderness,
And all were told to sanctify themselves:
Then by means of thunder and lightning flash,
The power of our Lord was manifest.

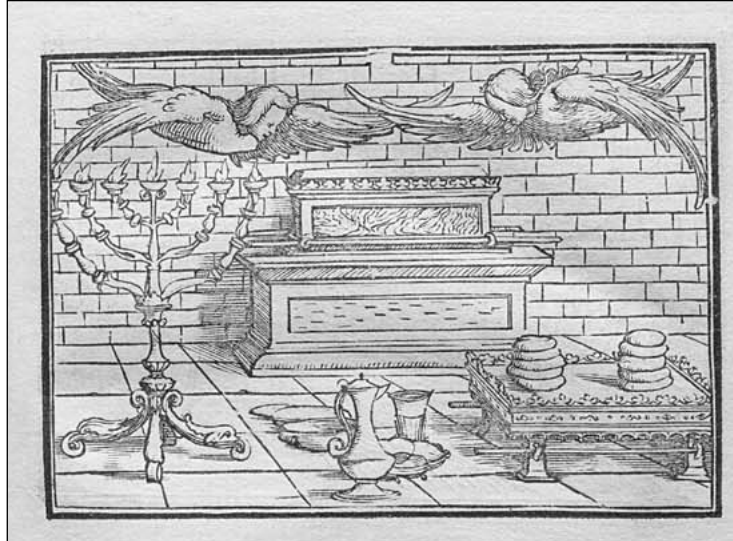
Exodus XIX



The Israelites are commanded to make an ark, a table, and a candlestick for the offering of first fruits to God. The bread of offering is set on the table.

Exodus XXV

Exodus 25



They built the ark of the tabernacle,
The golden table and the chandelier:
All were made in accord with God's command,
And on this table they laid offerings.

The tablets of the Law established, Moses climbs the mountain. He prays to God to walk with the people. The company of Gentiles and idolatry are forbidden.

Exodus 34



Moses in good faith on his knees to God
Begged mercy on behalf of Israel:
And he set down the tables of the Law,
Forbidding them to pray to pagan gods.

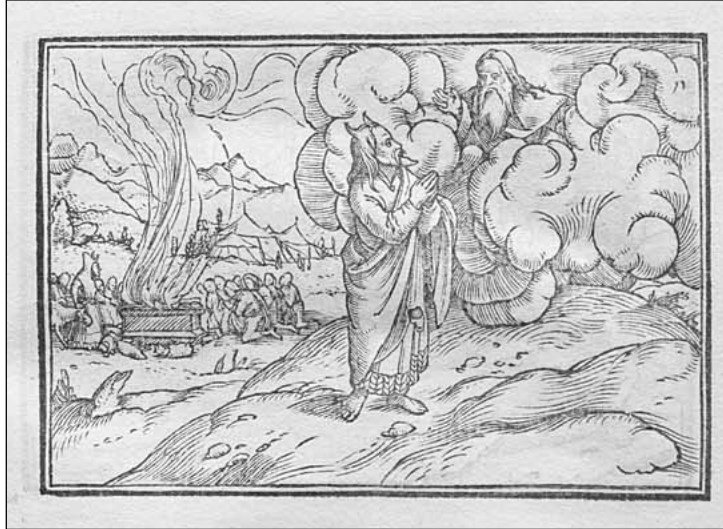
Exodus XXXVIII



Moses is instructed by the Lord, out of the tabernacle of witness, how to offer oxen and sheep.

Leviticus I

Leviticus I



Then Moses was instructed by the Lord
From out of the tabernacle, telling
Him the right way to offer sacrifice,
Yea, even of the flock, and of the herd.

With the people gathered before the doors of the tabernacle, Moses, at the command of the Lord, consecrates Aaron and his sons.

Leviticus 8



Before the door of the tabernacle,
By the commandment of God the Father,
Moses consecrates as bishop, Aaron
And each young son in turn, for all to see.

Leviticus VIII



Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, offering a strange fire contrary to God's precept, are consumed by the flame.

Leviticus X

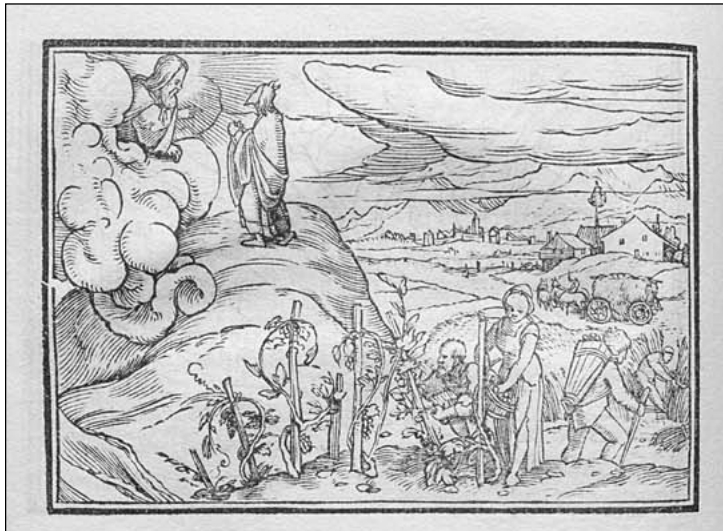
Leviticus 10



Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire
Before God, which he commanded them not,
And to cast down their arrogance, there went
Out fire from the Lord, and they were devoured.

The Lord teaches Moses some precepts, both moral and ceremonial.

Leviticus 19



And the Lord spake unto Moses, teaching
His commandments, which are the moral laws:
Moses learned the manner of observance,
The better to perform the rituals.

Leviticus XIX



Moses and Aaron count which men are able to fight, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. The tribe of Levi is ordained for the tabernacle.

Numbers I

Numbers I



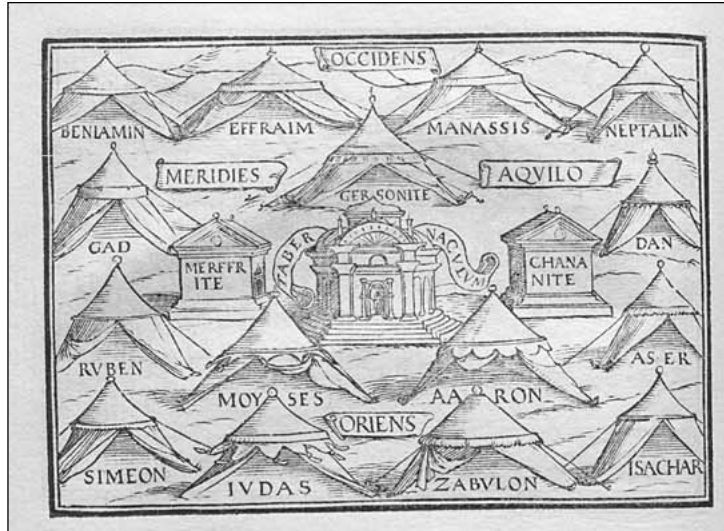
Moses enlisted and counted them all,
The princes of the tribes, the fighting men,
Except for those of the tribe of Levi:
Those men were to guard the tabernacle.

Moses and Aaron, having counted the tribes according to God's command, establish the stations of the tents.

Numbers II



Numbers 2



Then Moses called them forth and (at his will)
 Settled where to pitch the tents of princes,
 Set each into the proper rank and file,
 For crossing over lands and provinces.

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, having a grudge against Moses, are swallowed up by the earth with many others.

Numbers XVI

Numbers 16



Korah, Dathan, and Abiram rose up,
Begrudging Moses his authority:
Then each one got what he deserved, for the
Ground clave asunder that was under them.

Israel, rebelling, is stricken with fiery serpents. Moses sets up a brazen serpent as a token. When they who were bitten behold it, they are healed.

Numbers 21



The Lord sent fiery serpents among them:
Many men were bitten, and many died.
Then Moses set a brazen serpent up,
And any one who looked at it survived.

Numbers XXI



The Israelites, when they had overcome the Midianites, brought the captives to Moses and Aaron. They set aside the virgins; the wives are killed. The captives are then divided equally.

Numbers XXXI

Numbers 31



Israel defeated the Midianites,
And all of the captive women were slain
(Except for the ones that had not known men)
And these they divided among themselves.

In the wilderness, Moses recounts to the Israelites the things which were done on Mount Horeb. He ordains princes over the people.

Deuteronomy I



Then Moses in the wilderness rehearsed
All they had done since they left Mount Horeb,
When he had taken to him the wise men,
And princes of the tribes, for his support.

Deuteronomy I



Moses not only openly, but also sharply, warns the people to learn and follow the commandments of God.

Deuteronomy IIII

Deuteronomy 4



Moses exhorts the people earnestly
To keep and do therefore the good Lord's laws:
To abide by his righteous covenant
And be obedient to his voice.

Moses carefully decrees the feeding of the priests and Levites. Christ is promised. A false prophet should be killed and how he shall be known.

Deuteronomy 18



Moses takes care to judge the Levites' due
And Jesus Christ is promised to mankind,
The false and faithless prophet is found out:
To pay for his presumption he must die.

Deuteronomy XVIII



Joshua, with the host of Israelites, kills the kings beyond Jordan.

Joshua XII

Joshua 12



When he passed over Jordan, Joshua
Smote one and thirty kings, and gave their land
To the tribes of Israel, in accord
With their divisions, under his command.

Judas, the captain of the Israelites, overcomes the Canaanites. Adonibezek, his hands and feet cut off, is led a prisoner to Jerusalem.

Judges 1



Commander Judas fought the Canaanites,
Took prisoner King Adonibezek,
And after hacking off his feet and hands,
Brought him to the city: a sorry sight.

Judges I



Gleaning ears of corn in Boaz's field, Ruth found favor before him. The ears she had gathered she bears to her mother-in-law.

Ruth II

Ruth 2



Ruth went into the fields to find the grain
The reapers had to leave there for the poor;
She knelt before Boaz (whose fields they were)
And by his grace she was allowed to glean.

Hanna, the wife of Elkanah, long barren, obtains of God her son, Samuel, praying from her heart, as Eli the priest sits in a chair before the doors of the temple of God.

I Kings 1



Hanna the barren wife of Elkanah
Wept sore for a son, and the Lord received
The prayer she made from such a heavy heart:
She went in peace and Samuel was conceived.

I Kings [Samuel] I



Saul is anointed king over Israel by Samuel. A token is given to him at the grave of Rachel, whereby he should know that he was anointed king by God.

I Kings [Samuel] X

I Kings 10



By Samuel the prophet, the worthy Saul
Was anointed king over Israel:
And that he should believe this to be true
A sign was given him, at Rachel's tomb.

Casting away Saul's armor and trusting in the power of the one God, David kills Goliath with a stone from his sling and chases away the Philistines.

I Kings 17



David, armed only with his trust in God,
Took up a stone and struck Goliath dead.
When by a youth the giant was brought down,
The Philistines turned on their heels and fled.

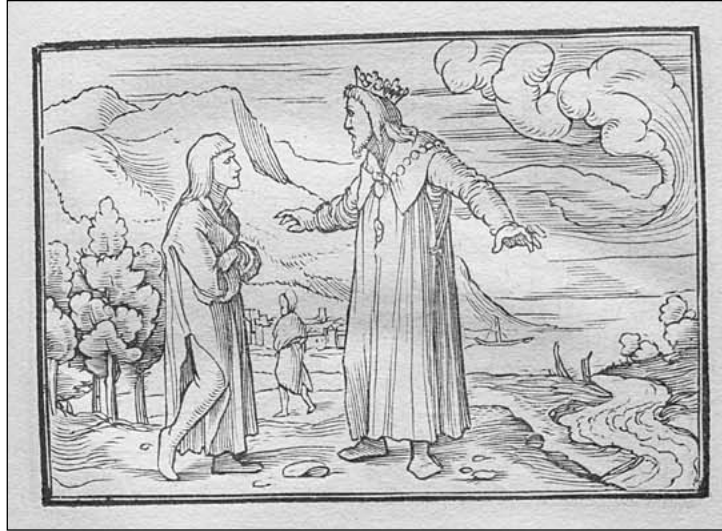
I Kings [Samuel] XVII



David is told that Keilah is besieged by Philistines and the threshing-floors laid waste. Taking counsel twice from the Lord, he delivers Keilah from them.

I Kings [Samuel] XXIII

I Kings 23



And they told the valiant David: Behold,
Keilah is besieged by Philistines.
David made doubly certain of God's will,
Then smote the enemy, and saved the town.

The death of Saul and Jonathan is announced to David. He is sorrowful and commands that he who pretended to have killed Saul should himself be killed.

II Kings 1



A false-tongued messenger told King David
That Saul and his son Jonathan were dead:
The herald thought this would be welcome news,
But for his vaunted tale he suffered death.

II Kings [Samuel] I



David chases away the Philistines and makes them tributary to himself.
Hadadezer, King of Zobah, is slain.

II Kings [Samuel] VIII

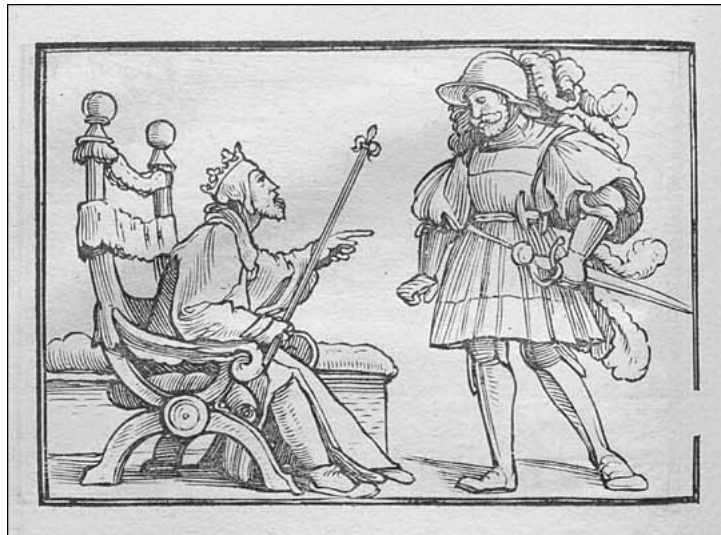
II Kings 8



King David smote and to himself subdued
The Philistines, his age-old enemies,
And the chief of all his adversaries,
Hadadezer, King of Zobah, slew.

David recalls Uriah from the army, to conceal his adultery, since he was sleeping with his wife. When he receives David's letter, Uriah returns to the army and is killed there.

II Kings 11



Wishing to conceal his adultery,
David sent a letter by Uriah,
Who was forced into battle by the king,
And thus with guile he brought about his death.

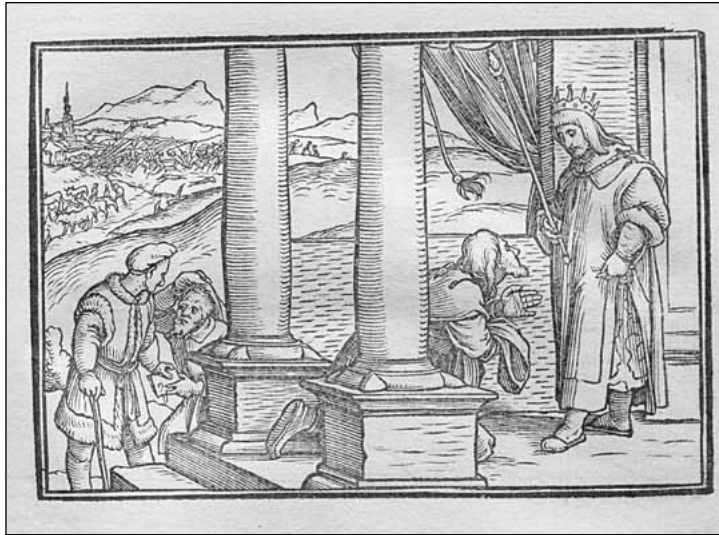
II Kings [Samuel] XI



Nathan the prophet accuses David of the murder, showing him a parable of the rich man and the poor man. Rabbath, a city of the Ammonites, is besieged by David.

II Kings [Samuel] XII

II Kings 12



And the Lord sent Nathan unto David
To tell a parable that would reveal
All that the king had troubled to conceal.
The city of Rabbath is overcome.

Absalom is recalled by the subtlety and wisdom of Joab and the woman of Tekoah. With Joab's harvest in flames, David kisses his son Absalom.

II Kings [Samuel] XIII



II Kings 14



Joab with a wise woman found the means
For David to make peace with Absalom,
And he was called, and bowed respectfully
Before the king his father, who kissed him.

Amasa summons Judah against Sheba. After kissing him, Joab treacherously kills him in the road, by a great stone.

II Kings [Samuel] XX

II Kings 20



Amasa gathered all the mighty men
Against Sheba, and Joab greeted him
Near the great stone. Feigning to embrace him,
Joab smote him with his sword, and he died.

Abishag the fair maiden is given to cold David to keep him warm when he sleeps.

III Kings 1



King David was old and stricken in years,
And he gat no heat. Abishag the fair
Lay in his bosom for many a night
And cherished him: yet the king knew her not.

III Kings [I Kings] I



Hiram sends his servants to congratulate. Solomon asks Hiram for wood for the building of the temple.

III Kings [I Kings] V

III Kings 5



Then Hiram king of Tyre sent servingmen
In sign of his good will to David's son:
And Solomon beseeched him to bring down
For his temple cedars of Lebanon.

Jeroboam consults Ahijah the prophet through his wife, about the health of his sick son. But as soon as she returns and crosses the threshold, Abijah dies.

III Kings 14



Abijah, Jeroboam's son, fell sick:
His wife he sent to seek the prophet's word.
The Lord was angry with them. She went back,
And as she crossed the threshold he expired.

III Kings [I Kings] XIII



Elijah shows the priests of Baal that the God of Israel is the true God. God testifies to this by consuming in fire the offering of Elijah. The priests of Baal are killed.

III Kings [I Kings] XVIII

III Kings 18



Elijah put the ox on the altar,
And lightning fell upon it, from the Lord,
And consumed it, and all the people said:
This Lord, he *is* the God, he *is* the God.

Elijah divides the water with his cloak. Taken into heaven, he can not be found.
The boys who mocked Elisha are devoured by bears.

IV Kings 2



Elijah was carried up to heaven
In a whirlwind, a chariot of fire.
Elisha was mocked by little children:
Two she-bears came, and tore them limb from limb.

IIII Kings [II Kings] II



Jehoida the bishop makes Joash king over Israel after Athalia is killed. Mattan, the priest of Baal, is killed before the altar.

IIII Kings [II Kings] XI

IV Kings II



By the hand of Jehoiada, Joash
Was made to reign as king of Israel:
And Mattan, priest of the idolaters,
They slew before the altar of Baal.

Ahaz, king of Judah and an idolater, consecrates his son by fire. Jerusalem is besieged and seeks aid from the king of the Assyrians.

IV Kings 16



King Ahaz like a heathen made his son
To pass through fire: an abomination.
Then when he found himself besieged, he begged
For the support of Assyria's king.

IIII Kings [II Kings] XVI



Josiah reads the book of Deuteronomy before the people. He destroys idols and kills the priests of Baal.

IIII Kings [II Kings] XXIII

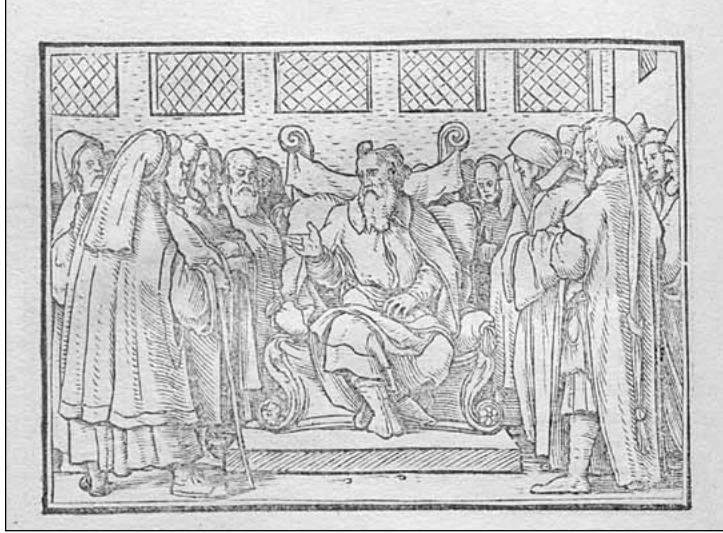
IV Kings 23



King Josiah read out the covenant
To his people from beginning to end:
And cleansing the land of unrighteousness,
He had their idols beaten down and burned.

The genealogy of Adam down to the sons of Esau and Jacob is briefly recounted.

I Paralip. 1



Here the genealogy from Adam
Unto Jacob, all who lived under God's
Guidance and command from the beginning,
Are now compendiously repeated.

I Paralip [Chronicles] I



Fighting unluckily against the Philistines, Saul kills himself. His armor is consecrated in the temple of their god, while his head is carried by the Philistines to the temple of the idols.

I Paralip. [Chronicles] X

I Paralip. 10



Saul fought against the Philistines and fell
On his own sword, seeing the war was lost:
The victors stripped the slain and took Saul's head
To their temple, for a trophy of war.

When the ark was brought, David blesses the people and makes them a feast.
He ordains ministers of the ark to praise God with musical instruments.

I Paralip. 16



King David knelt before the ark of God
To bless them there with flesh and wine and bread:
And in that holy tent, to praise the Lord
He ordered sacred music to be played.

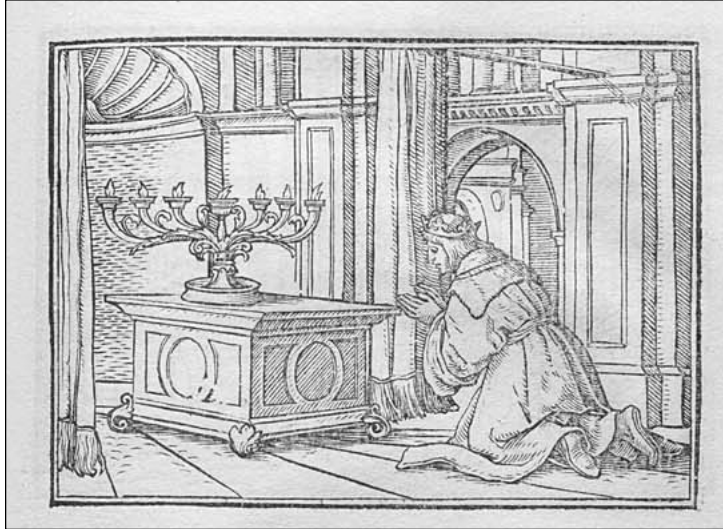
I Paralip.[Chronicles] XVI



Solomon goes to Gibeon to perform sacrifice. He asks God for wisdom and knowledge to judge the people.

II Paralip. [Chronicles] I

II Paralip. 1



Solomon sacrificed in Gibeon,
Praying to God for wisdom and knowledge:
And God assured him he would be granted
The wisdom he wanted, and wealth as well.

Solomon blesses the congregation. He thanks God for fulfilling the promises made to David. He prays that those praying in the temple be heard.

II Paralip. 6



King Solomon blessed the congregation,
Praising the Lord for promises fulfilled,
Praying on their behalf that whosoe'er
Should supplicate the Lord, would then be heard.

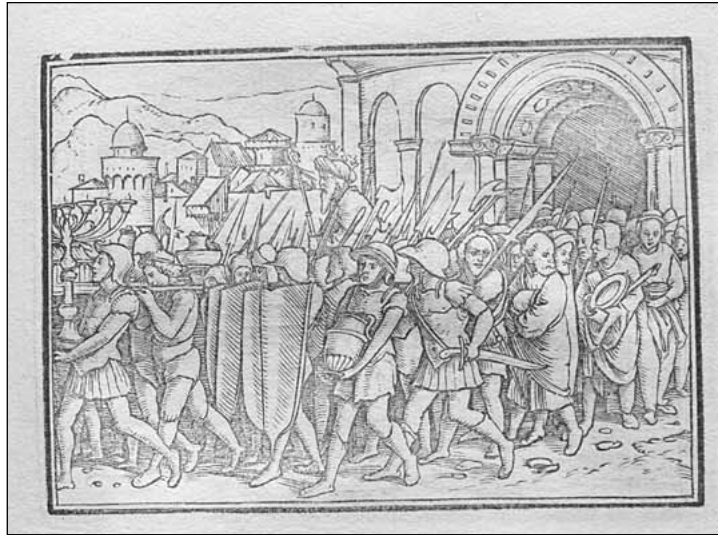
II Paralip.[Chronicles]VI



Because the Jews had forsaken the Lord, Shishak, king of Egypt, takes away the shields of gold that Solomon made and all the treasures of the house of God.

II Paralip. [Chronicles] XII

II Paralip. 12



Shishak, king of Egypt, conquered the Jews
(Forasmuch as they had forsaken God),
And took away treasures, the golden shields
That Solomon had made for glory's sake.

Sennacherib, a blasphemer, invades Judah. Hezekiah exhorts the people to trust God. As Hezekiah prays, the angel of God pursues the Assyrians.

II Paralip.[Chronicles]XXXII



II Paralip. 32



Sennacherib blaspheming fought the Jews,
But Hezekiah bade them trust in God,
And as he prayed an angel with a sword
Pursued Assyrians to lay them low.

Inspired by God, Cyrus, after restoring the temple vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had taken away, sends the people to rebuild Jerusalem.

I Esdras I

I Esdras I



God stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus,
Who restored the vessels to the temple:
He charged him to build the house of the Lord
In Jerusalem which is in Judah.

Nehemiah, Artaxerxes' servant, prays to God for the people in their affliction, the survivors of Jerusalem.

II Esdras I



Artaxerxes' servant Nehemiah,
(Who cried to God at the captivity
Of all the Jews) beseeched his master, who
Encouraged him to rebuild the city.

II Esdras I



Josiah, on the fourteenth day of the first month, offers up the paschal lamb in Jerusalem.

III Esdras [II Kings] I

III Esdras I



The godly King Josiah called to mind
The olden days: and in Jerusalem
Celebrated Passover in the first
Month, the fourteenth day, with a paschal lamb.

Tobit is led captive before the Assyrians. As he sleeps by the wall, the warm dung of the swallows falls in his eyes, and he is made blind.

Tobit 1 and 2



Good Tobit, in captivity grown old,
Slept by a wall beneath the swallows' nest
And woke up blind, never to see the light,
The warm dung having fallen on his eyes.

Tobit I & II



Satan obtains license from the Lord to destroy all the goods of Job and smite his children. But he praises God in his affliction.

Job I

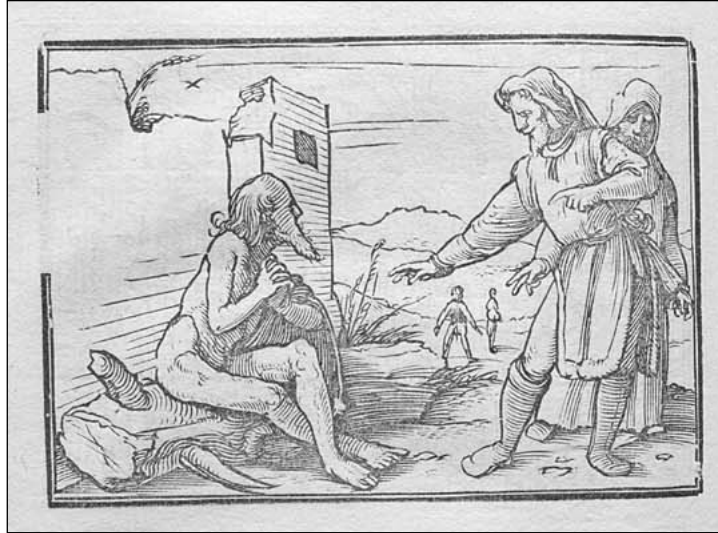
Job I



Job, at Satan's hands (with God's permission)
Suffered the loss of all his goods, and then
Was patient even when his children died:
Praising God in the midst of affliction.

Eliphaz rebukes Job for arrogance of wisdom and cleanliness. He describes the malediction of the wicked, which he falsely attributes to Job.

Job 15



Eliphaz adds insult to injury,
Rebuking Job with the maledictions
Of the wicked, for seeming arrogance,
Which he falsely attributes unto Job.

Job XV



The Lord speaks to Job, showing to him his righteousness by his unsearchable works. Unto Job what was taken from him is restored twice over.

Job XXXVIII & XLII

Job 38 and 42



Job has heard God speaking from the whirlwind,
Has seen his lofty works, and righteous deeds,
Then turned from his captivity, the Lord
Gives back to Job twice what he had before.

Ahasuerus, feasting, vaunts his power and glory. Divorcing Vashti his wife,
Esther is made queen.

Esther 1 and 2



Ahasuerus, after his great feast,
Repudiated Vashti for her pride,
Then he found the fair young virgin, Esther,
And with great celebration made her queen.

Esther I & II



Judith, after praying, adorns herself in festive garb to conquer Holofernes for the glory of God.

Judith X

Judith 10



Judith having ceased her lamentations,
Went dressed in beauty to allure men's eyes,
Straight into the tent of Holofernes
To conquer him, for the glory of God.

While Holofernes slumbered drunk and her maid watched the door, Judith cuts off his head and carries it to her people.

Judith 13



Her lady's maid kept watch outside the door.
Holofernes slept like a drunken dog:
Then Judith smote, and took away his head
And brought it to Bethulia in a bag.

Judith XIII



Inspired with the spirit of God, David describes the happiness of the just. He also foretells the destruction of the wicked and faithless.

Psalm I

Psalms I



David inspired with the spirit of God
Delineates the blessedness of man:
He describes how the wicked shall perish,
Using their talents for malicious ends.

The Psalmist's anger blazes against with the Jews and calls them fools who faithlessly and wickedly deny that Christ is the true Messiah and God, as promised in the Law.

Psalms 52



Fools are they (the Psalmist writes) who in
Their hearts deny Christ as Messiah and God,
And David is so saddened by the thought
That he writes about it time and again.

Psalm LII



Christ sits at the right hand of his Father. God the Father gives to his Son a priestly dignity which will endure forever because of the gift of his Passion.

Psalms CIX

Psalms 109



Christ is seated at the right hand of God:
As benefice for cruel martyrdom
He grants his son a priestly dignity,
Which is everlasting, and eternal.

The incomprehensible mystery of the love of Christ for his spouse, the Church, and of the love which the Church has for Christ is fully expressed.

Song of Solomon 1



In many a secret and solemn phrase,
In words that lovers use to hymn their love,
The Canticles of Solomon express
Christ's passion for the Church, his wedded wife.

Song of Songs 1



Isaiah laments the sins of Jerusalem. The Lord rejects, through Isaiah his prophet, the ceremonies and rites of the Jews wherein they put their trust.

Isaiah I

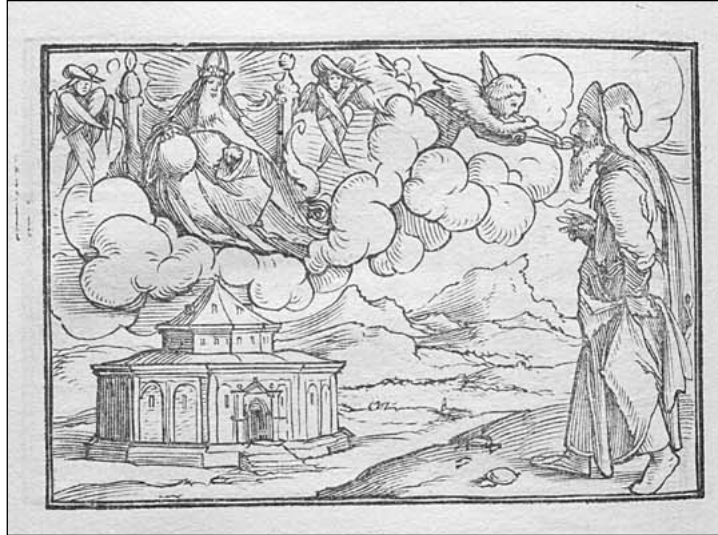
Isaiah I



Isaiah the prophet laments the vice
And sin of Jerusalem, then God speaks
(Through him) rejecting the hypocrisy
Of their multitudinous sacrifice.

Isaiah sees the glory of God and acknowledges his sins. By sign and word, he obtains remission of his sins and is sent to the Jews.

Isaiah 6



Isaiah witnessed the glory of God,
Then he confessed his sins, and they were purged
When his lips were touched by a red hot coal,
And the Lord to his prophet said: Go forth.

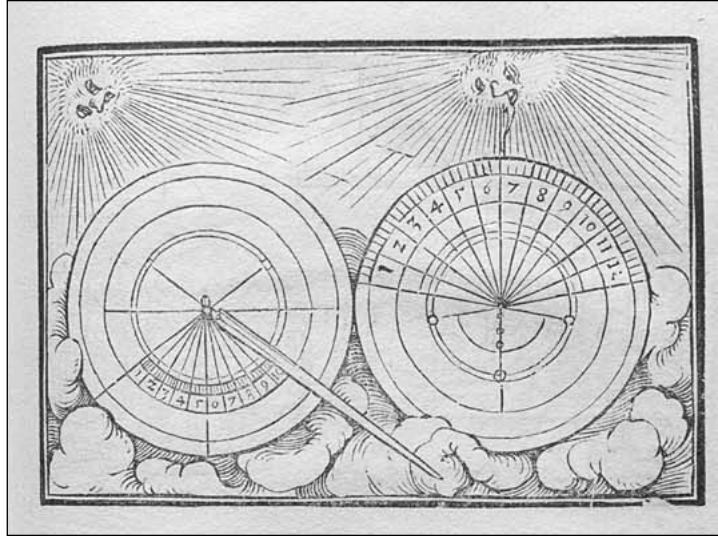
Isaiah VI



Hezekiah is sick unto death. He receives a sign of health from the Lord in his horoscope.

Isaiah XXXVIII

Isaiah 38



Hezekiah, sick unto death, received
A sign of health in his nativity:
The sun ran retrograde by ten degrees
And fifteen years were added to his days.

Ezekiel's visions of the four beasts, of the wheels, of the throne, and of the image that sits upon the throne.

Ezekiel 1



A vision came upon Ezekiel:
Four wingèd creatures by God on his throne,
Eagle, ox, lion and man, and a wheel
Within a wheel standing ready to roll.

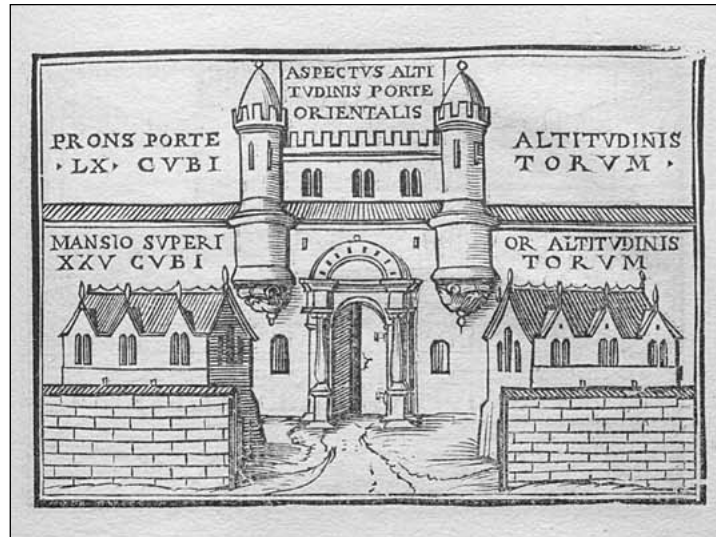
Ezekiel I



The coming of the city and the temple is shown to Ezekiel the prophet in visions.

Ezekiel XL

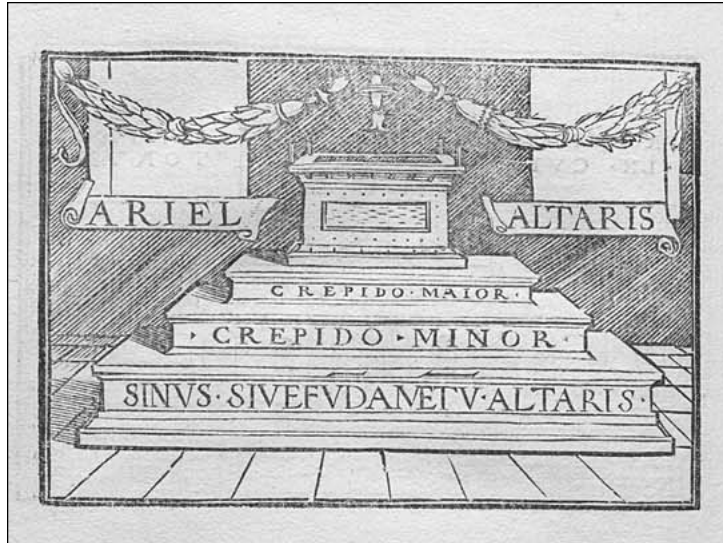
Ezekiel 40



A vision came unto him in his mind
Of all that would in future come to pass:
How the ruined city should be rebuilt
And the holy temple restored at last.

Ezekiel sees the glory of God entering the temple which it had forsaken. The measurements of the altar are described.

Ezekiel 43



He sees the glory of immortal God
Come into the holy sanctuary,
And afterwards the length, the breadth, and all
The measures of the altar are described.

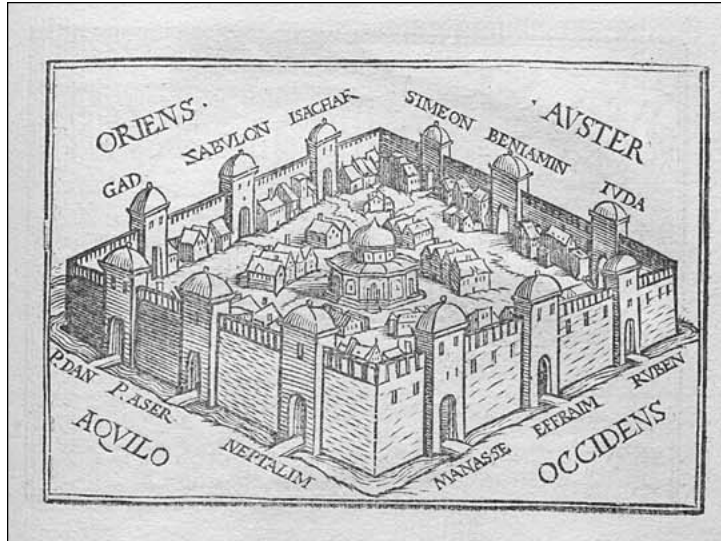
Ezekiel XLIII



Ezekiel sees waters running out of the temple. The boundaries of the promised land and divisions of the tribes are shown to the prophet by the Lord.

Ezekiel XLVII

Ezekiel 47



He sees waters running from the temple,
And the divisions of the promised land
According to the twelve tribes of Israel,
Its borders and apportionment as well.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are cast into a furnace because, contrary to the king's decree, they would not worship the golden image.

Daniel 4



Now Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
Are cast into the fiery furnace for
Not worshipping gold images, nor
Was an hair of their heads singed, and they lived.

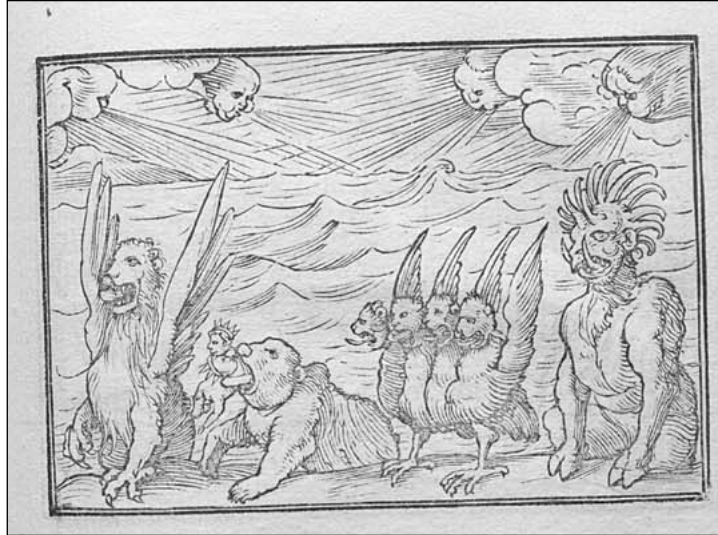
Daniel III



A vision of four beasts is shown to Daniel. This vision is interpreted as the four kingdoms of the world.

Daniel VII

Daniel 7



He envisions the strife of the four winds,
Their spirits, each more fearful than the last,
Great beasts that come up from the sea, and these
Signify the four kingdoms of the world.

Daniel sees a fight between a ram and a goat. The meaning of the vision is declared to Daniel by an angel.

Daniel 8



And then he sees a battle fiercely drawn,
Between a great horned goat, and noble ram:
Then Gabriel the angel comes to him,
And gives the understanding of the dream.

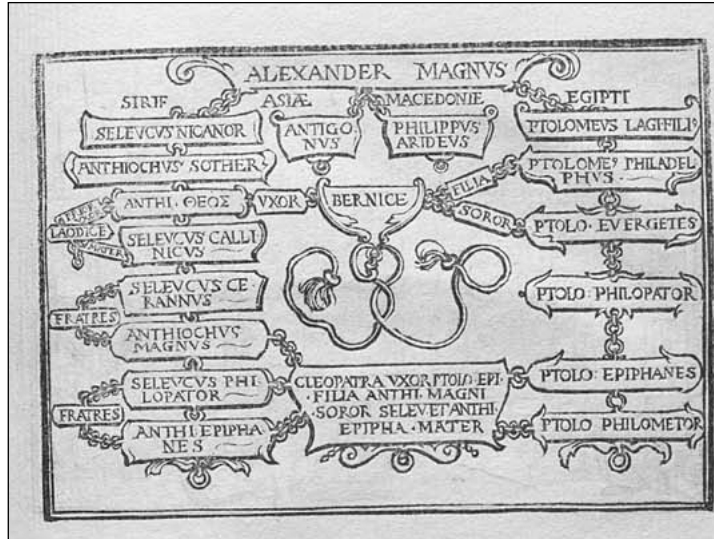
Daniel VIII



Daniel's prophecy concerning the kings of the Persians, the kingdom of Greece, of Egypt and its covenant. War with the kingdom of Syria is prophesied.

Daniel XI

Daniel II



He tells the future then of Persian kings,
Of Grecian and Egyptian sovereigns too,
The battle with the king of Syria:
Each seeking to enlarge his sovereignty.

The accusers of Susanna, convicted by Daniel, are executed.

Daniel 13



Good Susanna stood wrongfully accused
By two old men, but with fit punishment
The young boy Daniel found her innocent,
And the false witnesses were put to death.

Daniel XIII



For destroying Baal and the Dragon, Daniel is cast into the den of lions.
Habakkuk brings him meat.

Daniel XIII

Daniel 14



Daniel destroys the idol of Baal,
Along with the great dragon. He was thrown
To the lions, yet they left him alone:
Then Habakkuk goes to him with his meal.

Hosea, taking a whore for his wife, signifies the idolatry of the people.

Hosea 1



Hosea takes, and weds, a prostitute,
Which conceived, and bore three children to him,
In token of the wicked harlotry
Of the Jews, who are unfaithful to God.

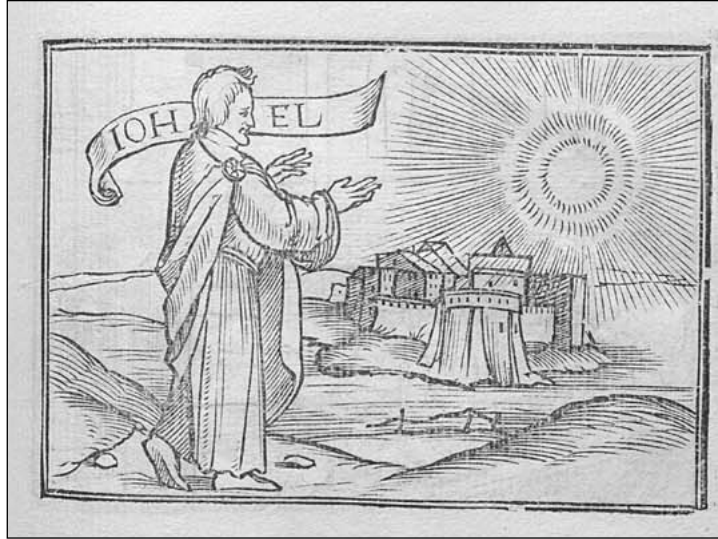
Hosea I



Joel prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem. He exhorts the priests to pray and fast for the calamity which is at hand.

Joel I

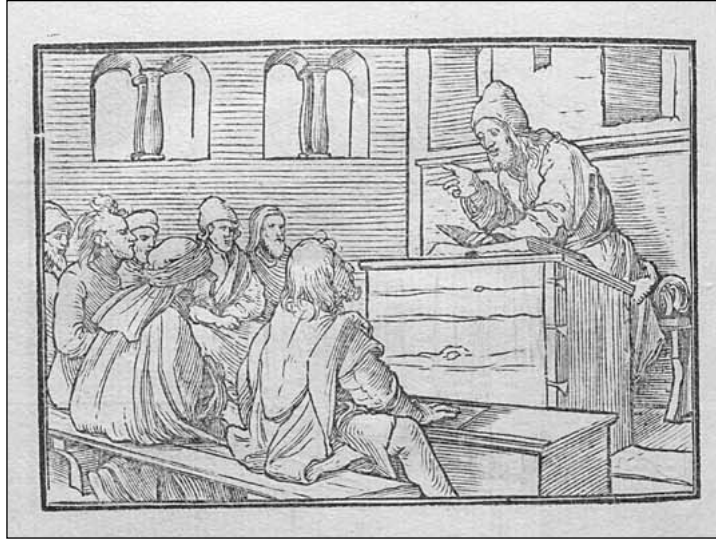
Joel I



Joel prophesied the destruction of
Jerusalem, and exhorted the priests
To devote themselves to fasting and prayer,
For the calamity which was at hand.

Amos prophesies against Damascus, the Philistines, Tyrus, Edom, and the sons of Ammon.

Amos I



Against Damascus, and the Philistines,
Against Tyrus, and the sons of Ammon,
Amos prophesies of the covenant,
In a terse lecture, with a heavy heart.

Amos I



Jonah is sent to the city of Nineveh to preach. He is punished because his prophecy against Nineveh was not fulfilled.

Jonah I, II, & III

Jonah 1, 2, and 3



And Jonah, sent to preach in Nineveh,
Was cast into the deep. He lived for three
Days in the belly of a whale, then he
Arose, and walked unto the great city.

Habakkuk, carrying drink and bread to the reapers, complains in the person of the saints that the evil persecute the just.

Habakkuk 1



The prophet Habakkuk, carrying bread
And pottage to the reapers in the field,
Complains to God of the injury done
Unto the just by the wickedest men.

Habakkuk I



Zechariah admonishes the people to convert themselves to God and eschew the evil doings of their fore-fathers.

Zechariah I

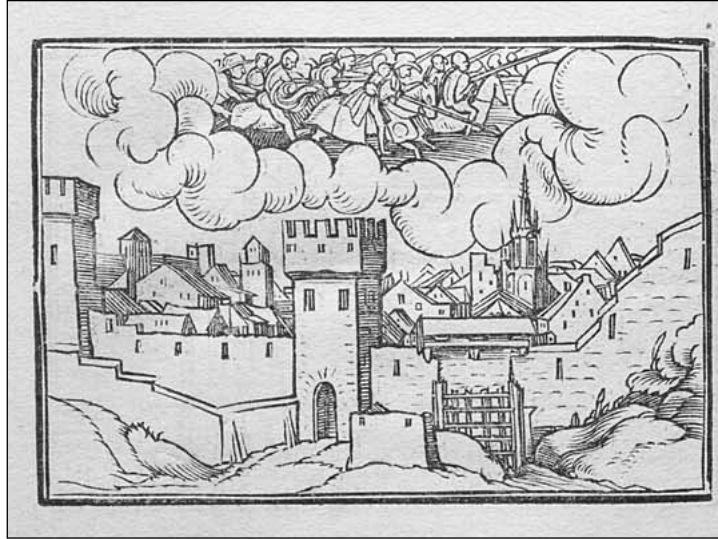
Zechariah I



Zechariah admonishes them all
To turn to the almighty Lord of hosts,
And shun the evil of their forefathers
Into which each one of them is sliding.

Signs appeared in the heavens above Jerusalem to Antiochus as he prepared his second expedition against Egypt.

II Maccabees 5



Antiochus again pursued the Jews,
And troops of horse, as if they trod the land,
Waged cloudy war above Jerusalem:
An emblem that bode ill for all of them.

II Macabees V



When you do contemplate these images
of God himself, please try to keep in mind
Divinity, and all its wondrous works,
The goodness that sustains in time of need.

To labor for such wisdom in the end
Will bring you benefit, and rich reward,
But cleave unto the articles of faith—
For the letter kills, but he spirit giveth life.

Not less but more.

The evangelist Matthew.
The evangelist Luke.

The evangelist Mark.
The evangelist John.



Lyon, published by Jean Frellon, 1547.

Afterword

Evangelist portraits



Colophon

Octavo